

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Dispute Over Trade Policy

*Warsaw's failure to reduce significantly its hard currency deficit continues to cause dissension within the Polish Government.*

The disagreement is primarily between the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission and centers on the degree of stringency--with its implications for economic growth and the consumer--to be applied to Polish hard currency trade. The Finance Ministry is pressing for some further drastic import cuts not now included in the foreign trade portion of the 1980 plan. Revision of the 1980 trade plan is currently a subject of debate at the highest levels of the bureaucratic and party leadership. Another indication of disagreement may be the recent and sudden resignation of Foreign Trade Minister Olszewski.

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